



A safe home is in your hands.

Home Safety for Young Children

As young children grow older, they begin to explore their surroundings more and more. Parents can guard against possible dangers by conducting a home safety evaluation from the child's point of view.

"An active child naturally climbs, crawls and explores," says Meri-K Appy, president of the Home Safety Council. "Parents need to take precautions to make sure curious children avoid common home injuries."

The Home Safety Council recommends that parents look at each room from their child's eye level and use the following tips to make homes safer for young, curious children:

- Young children need constant supervision, especially around water.
- Install baby gates at the tops and bottoms of stairs.
- Install child safety locks on cabinets to safely store chemicals, cleaners, medicines, cosmetics, and other toxic and/or caustic products.
- Purchase cleaners, household chemicals, medications and other potentially hazardous products with child resistant packaging.
- Post the national Poison Control Hotline (1-800-222-1222) and other emergency numbers next to every phone.
- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home and near sleeping areas.
- Children should stay three feet away from the stove to prevent burns.
- Install toilet seat locks; turn over all buckets and store them up high, where they cannot collect standing water or be reached by children.
- Test faucet water at the tap and adjust water heater to 120°F or below.
- If your home has a pool, surround it on all sides with installed fencing and a self-latching gate.
- Never leave a child unattended near standing water, even for a moment.
- Locate cribs, beds, chairs and other furniture away from windows.
- Install window locks or safety guards on above-ground windows. Be sure they have a quick-release mechanism in case of fire.
- Keep window treatment cords and sashes tied and stored up high overhead; purchase new mini-blinds that meet safety standards.
- Store matches, lighters, candles and other fire tools out of children's sight and reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.

For additional information and resources to help you learn more and stay safe in and around your home, please visit www.homesafetycouncil.org.